

RESOLUTION 10-2007

‘Cultural Resolution’ to Encourage Arts, Culture, Tribal Arts & Culture, Historic Preservation, Archaeology, Humanities, Genealogy, Natural and Heritage Tourism, Landscapes, etc. and Related Economic Sector Opportunities for Current and Future Generations

WHEREAS, the State’s Montana Historical Society (MHS) collection documents that Jefferson County is one of the original Montana Territory county names mapped in 1864; and

WHEREAS, the State’s MHS collection documents that Jefferson County’s historic Boulder, Montana Deaf & Dumb Asylum is named in the US Congress' 1889 Enabling Act, which granted Montana and other US Territories their statehood (Montana on November 8, 1889). In the Act, the US Congress granted 50,000 acres to establish the historic Boulder, Montana Deaf & Dumb Asylum (renamed Montana School for the Deaf & Blind, MSDB). It opened in Boulder in 1893 as a school for deaf, blind, and mentally challenged students. The first permanent building of the historic Boulder MSDB is on the National Register for Historic Places (NR). MHS Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has decades of documents attesting the entire historic Boulder MSDB campus and ranch (renamed again by the State several times) is potentially eligible as a Historic District/National Heritage Area. MSDB (now in Great Falls) is a state-wide school district, so Boulder’s historic MSDB was the first one in the State. MHS and numerous State agencies hold countless feet of Boulder’s historic MSDB/renamed State names documents in Annual Reports, Laws, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the State’s MHS collection documents Boulder’s Margaret Cunningham as a pioneer in US Women's History in 1893. MHS lists her as 'The First Woman to Run a Montana State Entity'. When Boulder's historic Montana Deaf & Dumb Asylum (MSDB) opened in 1893, Margaret ran it, as documented in Governor Rickert's 1893 appointment letter to her; and

WHEREAS, the State’s MHS and SHPO collection documents Jefferson County’s late 1800’s silver, gold, etc. mining history plus the preservation of these and other historic mining areas/towns in the State. The Elkhorn Ghost Town’s Fraternity Hall is on the National Register. Fraternity Hall and Gillean Hall are a Montana State Park. Their photos are included in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. MHS SHPO has decades of documents attesting the Elkhorn Ghost Town/mining areas are potentially eligible as a Historic District and/or National

Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, the State's MHS SHPO has been consulted to determine if Jefferson County has the State's only historic 'outdoor' ads -- painted boulders -- along the 1800's Fort Benton to Virginia City stage coach line roads that also ran to Salt Lake City. These may be eligible for the National Register; and

WHEREAS, the State's MHS SHPO maintains a State-wide historic site database with about 475 Jefferson County sites inventoried for National Register eligibility. (Many more historic sites in the County are not in the inventory.) Many of these sites were determined as still in evaluation for eligibility/potentially eligible/eligible for the NR/NR listed or for a higher designation as a Historic District, National Heritage Area, etc. Jefferson County has six sites on the NR -- Boulder's historic MT Deaf & Dumb Asylum (MSDB), Jefferson County Courthouse, and Boulder Hot Springs; Fraternity Hall at Elkhorn Ghost Town; Child Ranch (now Kleffner Ranch) in East Helena, and the MacHaffie Archeology Site in Montana City. The County's Historic Districts/National Heritage Area candidates include Boulder Main Street, Basin Main Street, Elkhorn Ghost Town/Mining areas, historic Boulder MSDB/renamed State names campus & ranch, Ruddville, Wickes Townsite, Clancy Historic Mining, etc., and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County is home to many cultural institutions, e.g., Jefferson County Museum, Clancy (managed by Jefferson County Museum & Cultural Advisory Board); Jefferson Valley Museum, Whitehall; Montana Artist's Refuge, Basin; future Jefferson County Genealogy and Heritage Center, Boulder (1888 Bank is eligible for National Register); Jefferson County Libraries in Clancy, Boulder, and Whitehall; Jefferson County Fair Board, Boulder; Boulder River Carousel & Entertainment Board, Boulder; historic churches and other buildings throughout the County, etc. The County's two State Parks are Elkhorn Ghost Town's Fraternity Hall/Gilleon Hall; and the pioneer Parker Homestead near Three Forks. The State's MHS SHPO documents the Parker Homestead may be eligible for the National Register, and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County is home to many talented individual fine artists, craft artisans, authors, film industry creative talent, musicians, singers, teachers and students in the arts and humanities, historic preservationists, genealogists, etc. and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County already passed Jefferson County Resolution 50-97, naming the Jefferson County Museum & Cultural Preservation Board as the County entity that

can manage the County's heritage properties, historical sites, and antiquities. Jefferson County Resolution 50-97 also names this Board as the County entity that can protect and preserve its historic collection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Commission re-affirm its guiding principles to continually seek to improve the quality of life of and to serve with integrity for current and future generations. We encourage arts, culture, Tribal arts & culture, historic preservation, archeology, humanities, genealogy, natural and heritage tourism, landscapes, etc. (hereafter called 'culture') and related economic sector assets, initiatives, designations, signage, awards, grants, etc. (hereafter called 'designations') for current and future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jefferson County re-affirms its guiding principle to lead by example. The County Commissioners encourage former, current, and future Jefferson County employees and the County's assets; Jefferson County Museum & Cultural Preservation Board, Fair Board, Library Board, other County boards and partners; plus individual artists, craft artisans, authors, and film industry creative talent; culture and related non-profits; public and home school art, music, drama, history, etc. teachers, students, programs, newspapers, etc.; school districts; historic property owners; and other entities to inform the Commissioners of their intent to find local, state, federal, and other resources that bring more culture and related economic sector designations, etc. within the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jefferson County encourages cultural organizations, individual artists, historic property owners and managers, etc. to ask the Commissioners to participate in letters of support and attend cultural meetings, etc. for federal, state, city, and other entity applications for culture and related economic sector designations, so considerable cultural and history assets in the County are publicly acknowledged for their true national/regional/state/etc. importance. These entities include Certified Local Governments, Main Street Communities, Historic Districts, National Heritage Areas, Preserve America Neighborhoods and Communities, Save America's Treasures, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, US Department of Interior, US Department of Commerce, President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities, US Department of Agriculture, etc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jefferson County protects and celebrates our culture and related economic sector assets and designations; our historic assets for use in culture and related economic sector development; and encourages people to experience and appreciate this economic sector's resources through education and related tourism initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jefferson County encourages the creation of new culture and related economic sector non-profits to lead these initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jefferson County re-affirms its guiding principles and will immediately institute this Resolution to address the need for more culture, an under-served economic sector; and do and will preserve, protect, designate, celebrate, encourage, and promote culture and related economic sector designations, that are critical to our future success in this economic sector for current and future generations. Cultural entities are encouraged to include this Resolution in designation applications.

DATED this 2nd day of April, 2007.

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

KEN WEBER, CHAIR

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, COMMISSIONER

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER